**Children rendered homeless**

2909. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children rendered homeless in the country during the last three years, due to natural calamities;

(b) the number of children who are victims of terrorism in Kashmir and North Eastern region and the number of children who became orphan due to naxalite violence in the country;

(c) the action taken by Government to coordinate with State Governments and NGOs in this regard;

(d) whether Government are running special programmes for such children in the affected regions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Quality care of children**

2910. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent study of child development, conducted in the United States have found children who received quality child care before entering kindergarten had better vocabulary scores in the fifth grade, than did youngsters who received lower quality care;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has studied this report;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering to introduce such methods in the country also; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the recent analysis of the Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development conducted by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of USA the children who received higher quality child care before entering kindergarten had better vocabulary scores in the fifth grade than did children who received lower quality care. The Study has been conducted on limited number of children, that is, 1364 who have been tracked since birth in ten locations in USA. The children studies were not a representative sample of children in US population.

(c) and (d) In the Eleventh Plan continuous efforts will be made to strengthen early childhood care and education.